



Official Newsletter for the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

Michigan Memo

November 2014, Volume 26, Number 8

Like Never Before

— Kamil Metz
Publishing Director

It was the last Sunday of the summer magabook program, and Moses Ntekereze was really discouraged. He was ready to tell his leader, Lily Zhang, that he was done for the day. After all, people didn't seem that interested in what he had to offer that day.



While he was dealing with discouragement, a mother, living in the neighborhood where Ntekereze was working, was also discouraged. She had just finished having a conversation with her son. He was asking many questions about God and religion, and she hadn't been able to give him satisfactory answers. At the close of their discussion, her

son had concluded that Christianity doesn't make sense, and so he would become an atheist. His mother was just about to walk out of the house, feeling like a total loser, when she stopped to pray.

Her whispered prayer was, "God, would you please send someone to my door with Christian books that will answer my son's questions?" She picked up a checkbook and wrote a check for \$150. In the memo she marked it for "Christian books."

Twenty minutes later, "discouraged" Ntekereze came to her door with Christian books! He met both the woman and her son - who shot question after question at him about Christianity. At that point, it became obvious to Ntekereze that God began to take over his canvass. "Every time he asked me a question," Ntekereze shared, "I pulled out a book and showed how it would help answer his questions." God showed Ntekereze exactly which book would answer each one!

At the end, what a sight it was for him to see a stack of ten books on their coffee table and a check in his hand, money prayerfully designated for Christian literature. What an encouragement it was for him to know that he was God's messenger that day, a messenger of hope.

The theme for this past summer was, "Like Never Before." It was our aim to pray like never before, to work together like never before, to share books with others like never before, and ultimately see God work in us and through us like never before. And that's exactly what happened. This summer was like none we had seen before. We put out more books into more communities across Michigan than we ever had before in previous summers.

This past summer 75 academy and college-aged young people worked as student literature evangelists in Michigan, with a special focus on Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and

(Continued on page 3)



Guest's Perspective

Our God Is Faithful

—Leroy Bruch
Conference Treasurer

If you return tithe and offering, how will you and your family eat next week?” Satan’s temptation cut deep into Peter’s heart. Peter, a married student with children, understood tough times. Studying at Avondale College, his employment at a local health food factory did bring the family some income, but they still found themselves living from paycheck to paycheck. One particular week however, unexpected expenses strained their financial resources to the breaking point. The only money in the house was the Lord’s tithe from the last paycheck and a few dollars that Peter intended to give to the Lord as a love offering. With one more week to go before the next payday, Peter could see no financial relief in sight. The cupboards were almost bare and there was little food in the fridge. No matter how Peter looked at the situation, there was too much “week” and not enough food.

As the family was getting ready to go to Sabbath School and church that next Sabbath morning, Satan continued to assail Peter. The devil suggested that, without any money in the house, the family would not have food and the children would become malnourished. Assailed by Satan’s temptations, Peter lifted up a silent prayer to God as he opened the cupboard and retrieved the Lord’s tithe and love offering. In a few moments the family was on its way to church. Needless to say, so was the devil. There was not a moment of peace for Peter as he made his way into the house of the Lord. In fact, the devil seemed to be sitting on his shoulder whispering doubts into his ear all through Sabbath School and especially into the worship service. Peter was convinced that Satan was attempting to break his faith and trust in God through fear and rationalization.

Finally, the time came for the congregation to worship God by returning their tithe and love gifts to the Lord. As the deacons were collecting the offering, the devil made one last attempt to sway Peter. He tried to convince Peter to return only the tithe and to keep back the love offering to buy food for his family. Peter resolved in his heart to trust God fully and reaching into his pocket brought out not only the tithe, but also the love offering and dropped it into the offering plate. Then with a sigh of relief, he said, “Now devil, leave me alone!” Peter had peace for the rest of the worship service. He trusted that God would bless his faithfulness. His heart was stayed on the Lord and not

on his own circumstance. He knew in his heart that He had been faithful to God and that God would somehow provide for the needs of his family, even though he did not know how that blessing would come.

Returning home that Sabbath, the family offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord as they ate from their dwindling food supplies. Without any relief in sight, Peter prayerfully petitioned the God of Heaven for mercy upon his family and finances. God gave him peace and that week Peter returned to his work at the health food factory. Having a chemistry background prior to studying at Avondale, Peter was hired by the factory to test the purity of the food that was being produced. Every day Peter would pull cans of health foods from various production lots and test them. After opening the can, Peter would remove a small quantity of the health food and test it for purity. Then he

would set that can aside and move on to a new can from the next production lot. The open cans which had been tested would then be discarded into the trash at the end of the day.

However this particular day, something quite out the ordinary occurred. As

Peter was testing the food, his supervisor approached him and said, “You know Peter, every day we open these cans of health foods and extract a very little amount of the food for testing and then we discard the remaining food in the opened cans. What a waste of good food this is. Peter, why don’t you take these open cans of food home for your family to eat? It seems like a sin for this good food to just be thrown away.”

At that moment, Peter realized that God had answered his prayer and honored his faithfulness. At home that evening, he recounted to his family the events of the day and how God had blessed. From then on, he began to bring home cans of quality health foods to help supply the food needs of his family. I met Peter some years later and he told me that the blessing that God gave him that day at the food factory still encouraged his heart. He told me that he learned by experience that our God is faithful and that God honors them who honor him.

Satan loves to tempt God’s children to withhold from God His tithe and the love offerings which He deserves. He will use any reason including unexpected expenses, too little income, or just plain financial mismanagement to keep us from being faithful

“At that moment, Peter realized that God had answered his prayer and honored his faithfulness.”

to God. As God's children, however, we need to learn that our first priority is to return to God His tithe and to add to it a generous love offering. Then we need to trust the Lord that He will help us and provide for all our needs. Even if we have failed to manage our finances correctly, God has promised that He will still help us. He has promised to open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us (*Malachi 3:8-12*). When He pours out His blessings He will not only provide us with what we need to live, but He will also give us wisdom to correctly handle the money that He has blessed us with. He has also promised never to leave us nor forsake us (*Hebrews 13:5*). In fact testifying of God's faithfulness, the Psalmist has written: "I have been young, and *now* am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread." (*Psalms 37:25 NKJV, emphasis added*)

So dear reader, as we close out 2014 and start a new year, I want to encourage you to trust God fully. Perhaps you have not been faithful in returning the Lord's tithe and offering; or, perhaps you have returned the tithe, but neglected to give Him a love offering. If this is the case, then I want to encourage you to make a commitment today to be faithful to God and to honor him. Year end is a good time to catch things up financially with the Lord and to start the new year fresh with Him. Why not put God first like Peter did and then hold fast to the promise that our "God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (*Philippians 4:19 NKJV*) You can trust the sure promises of God because experience has shown that our God truly is a faithful God.

Every Monday morning, the Michigan Conference staff meet together for worship and prayer. Here is the list for the month of November and the first week in December. Please join with us as we pray for these ministries.

November 3 - 7

**Port Sanilac/Vassar
Pastor Dick Bullock
Bible Worker - Donna Bullock
Vassar Community Service Center - Carole Kuhl**

November 10 - 14

**Cedar Lake
Pastor Jeffrey Marshall
Community Service Center - Betty Lacey
Cedar Lake Elementary - Alio Santos, Principal,
Gabriel Mendez, Cheryl Williams
Great Lakes Adventist Academy -
Delwin Garcia, Principal, 29 Teachers and Staff**

November 17 - 21

**Belgreen/Ionia/Portland
Pastor Monte Landis
Ionia Community Service Center - Marie Gary
Ionia Elementary - Tamie Hasty**

November 24-26

**Bunker Hill/Jackson
Pastor Moise Ratsara
Jackson Community Service Center - Janet Allen**

December 1 - 5

**Lapeer/Orion-Oxford/Otter Lake
Pastor Harry Rogers
Lapeer Community Services - Joy Breeding**

(Continued from front page)

their surrounding areas. Together, they distributed 50,500 magabooks, with 5,500 being *The Great Controversy!* They also raised \$417,018 in donations, \$280,000 of which is going toward their Christian education!

We praise the Lord - for a summer "like never before!"

For more information on how young people ages 16 and above may join the 2015 summer magabook program, apply on-line at www.goyouthimpact.com or call 517-316-1515 for more information.



A Hidden Treasure:

It was a warm summer morning at the Adventist Historic Village (AHV). I parked my van in the lot behind the Dr. J. H. Kellogg Discovery Center. I could already hear excited voices echoing around the property. The voices belonged to some of the Pathfinders who had stopped here while on their way to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the Pathfinder Camporee. Thinking that I was well-hidden behind the Discovery Center,



I put on my comfortable shoes and my pinafore over my long pioneer skirt. As I placed my hat on my head, people found me and started peppering me with excited questions.

This was early August, one month that Don Scherencel, a former brick-layer, but now a favorite storyteller and director of AHV, and his wife Betty had planned for during the whole year. They had been

busy staffing, organizing a food service, finding tour guides and parking attendants, and sprucing up the grounds. And they were not disappointed. August saw 7,155 guests, with the majority of them visiting in the first two weeks. Not only were there Pathfinders, but also guests from Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) that met in Grand Rapids this year for their annual convention as well as those who came on their vacations to tour.

Don and Betty worked side-by-side, touring groups and individuals that arrive seven days a week before, during, and after working hours. When guests were not present, there were grounds and buildings to maintain, remodel, and repair; there were volunteers and students to supervise and schedule. Betty also made costumes that many volunteers were privileged to wear and be photographed as people work around the village.

As I prepared, soon buses, vans, and carloads filled up the parking lots. Volunteer staff directed traffic, made food for other volunteers and Pathfinder groups, transported water, directed



groups to tour guides, told stories, sold goods in the gift store, staffed registration tables, answered phones, and supervised the museum. This team of volunteers were not only from all over Michigan, but also from Illinois, the East Coast, and North Carolina.

Volunteers also would "shepherd" the groups to each historic location. I smiled as I saw a "shepherd" definitely in his 80's



and another in her young teens. All ages united to make sure this was a wonderful time for the visiting guests. Later, I met volunteers who were entire families, grandparents, children and their children, retirees, church members, returning Adventist Frontier Missionaries, and others all dressed in their pioneer finest. Some volunteers were experienced and come each year, while others just came for this special time. They were students, professors, church members, retired people from the South, who speak Spanish and English.

It was wonderful to walk around the campus and see people smiling, stopping to greet guests, and posing for pictures with their groups. It was an exciting time for our church, where people came many miles to hear stories of our Adventist beginnings, hear new and old stories, learn new facts, and contemplate Mrs. White's visions. Guests pondered how one of the largest parochial school systems was formed, how our churches began, why literature was printed, where conferences were created, and how many were trained in health-related fields. All this was done despite the weather, hardships, fires, insults, and opposition.

Under the big circus tent area where meals were eaten on one side and groups assembled for tours, I told stories of Sarah McEnterfer, secretary of Ellen White. Many of this week's guests were children in matching Pathfinder uniforms, who listened intently, despite all the noise and excitement around us. What an opportunity to impact the next generation with appreciation for all those who have come before us!

Pathfinders from Brazil asked me questions that some I could answer and others I could not. "Is Mrs. White still living?" "Was her body embalmed?" "Did the Whites have a garden?" "What

The Adventist Historic Village

— Laurie Snyman

Assistant to the Ministerial Director

were people sick with at the Sanitarium?” “Did James White have a horse?” “What color was his horse?” “Did any of the pioneers die on the Titanic?”

One little boy, I later learned, accompanied his mother and older Pathfinder brother from the country of Tobago. He raised his hand after the story of Sarah.

“How old are you?” he asked intently. I answered with a slight smile, “I am not sure that is a nice question for you to ask an older woman.”

“Well, I just wondered... I mean, if you knew Mrs. White, you must be really old,” he said, quite sure of himself. I said, “That would make me about 150 years old. Do I look that old to you?” I baited him a bit. “No, not that old. But if you knew Mrs. White, then you must be that old.” I smiled again and reassured him that I was just Sarah McEnterfer for today and usually I am Laurie from Lansing. “Oh,” he said, as the other kids playfully punched his arm, laughing. “I get it.” But, I’m not really sure he did.

Some guests were not from ASI or on the way to the Camporee; some were here because they were on vacation from other states or around the world such as Samoa, Romania, Guatemala, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Philippines, Kenya, Canada, Brazil, Australia, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Congo, Great Britain, the Virgin islands, New Zealand, France and more. No matter where they were from, they come to learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and how it began. Each



person left with a greater knowledge and inspiration to persevere through world crises until we all meet together in heaven.

The village also had opportunities for several students each summer to intern. Jessica, a second year student working at the AHV, relaid this experience after touring with a group from Uganda. She was having “a pretty normal tour until we got to Ellen White’s bedroom. Usually we ask for a volunteer to pray in there. One of the young boys quickly volunteered to pray. He prayed a nice prayer, thanking God that his club could come to Ellen White’s home and learn about the history of the pioneers. After the prayer, his Pathfinder leader put his hands on his shoulders and said to the others, ‘This is very special

because even he does not know his own history with this place, before he was born.’ The leader explained that in 1999, when this boy’s mother was pregnant with him, she fell ill. Both his mother and her baby (now this boy) were in danger. The Pathfinder leader was here in this (the White’s) house on a tour, when he heard the news. The man went outside to one of the trees behind the house and prayed for both the mother and her baby. ‘Well,’ he said, ‘here we are 15 years later and that baby is now a young boy praying in Mrs. White’s bedroom.’ All of us were very touched. After we exited, everyone took pictures in front of the house, but I noticed the Pathfinder leader take the boy over to a tree, knelt down, and thanked God for answering his prayer in that same spot years before.”

On a more recent Sabbath, I was asked to take my very first group out and give them a tour. I prayed God would help me to recall what I had read so I would not cheat this group out of the vital information usually disbursed by the more experienced tour guides. God was good. They only asked questions I knew from my studies. Just being on the tour inspired the little group. There were times they broke out into Romanian songs. We posed for pictures. They prayed in different buildings, touched by the pioneer stories and sacrifice. At the end, I let them know this was my very first tour and they had been my experimental group. They hugged me; they positively affirmed me; they took pictures of me and sang to me in Romanian. They even told the other staff what a great job I had done (they were very kind but not sure they knew what they were missing). But when they left, we were bonded as friends forever, looking forward to living with each other in the New Jerusalem and excited to meet those who all came before us.

As I was walking down the road in the middle of the campus, a woman in her 30’s came up to me with tears. She had just finished her tour. In broken English, she said to me with her Spanish accent, pointing at her chest, “I am so touched in here. I love my church. I have listened to the stories. Being here makes me look forward, so much, to the Second Coming.”

As Pastor Mark Finley once said, stories like these confirm that the AHV is “one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s most valuable, hidden treasures.” For more information or to take a tour, visit www.adventistheritage.org for more information.



Transitions in Mission



Leeroy Hernandez is the new assistant director of the Literature Ministries/Publishing Department, working with GLOW tract distribution. A recent graduate of Ouachita Hills College, he has taught many canvassing and evangelism programs, including 3ABN Latino's Sabbath School. He steps in for Jordan Peck, who has gone to the mission field.



Brendan Mattson graduated from the Battle Creek and Great Lakes Adventist Academies, as well as Southern Adventist University with degrees in accounting and an MBA. Originally from Hastings, he is the new assistant treasurer, having just completed a leadership internship at the Southern Union Conference.



Annette Metz is the new full time secretary for the Publishing Department. The wife of Kamil Metz, director of the department, together they have two children: Rebekah and Micah. Formerly part time, she brings six years of canvassing experience and a great passion for the literature ministry. She replaces Edie Ellis, the new Assistant Treasurer for Risk Management, who has taken over for Lisa Jensen, who has moved to South Dakota.

Bob Benson will be pastoring the Riverdale church, previously pastored by Oscar Montes who has moved to the Carolina Conference.

Jim Howard will be the new Personal Ministries/Evangelism Director beginning of next year. He replaces Steve Vail who is serving as evangelist in the Carolina Conference.

Daniel Scarone is the new pastor of the St. Johns Church as well as an Associate Ministerial Director. He follows Fred Dana, who now serves at Wisconsin Academy.

God Will Take Care of His People

— Joy Hyde

Communications Secretary for the Detroit Metropolitan Church

Jay Peterson has 26 years of wilderness survival experience. Peterson is a dedicated Adventist member in the Shelby Church in Michigan and has been involved in Pathfinders for 23 years, many of those years as an Area Coordinator. Lately while in deep earnest prayer, Peterson was convicted that he has to share his survival skills with God's people. So when asked to present the *Wilderness Living in the End Times* seminar at the Michigan Camp Meeting in June 2014, Peterson saw this as an opportunity to follow his conviction. The classroom for his seminar was filled to more than capacity for all of Peterson's presentations - even though there was no air conditioning. It is obvious that many people want to be ready and therefore want to know what Peterson knows. Peterson also does presentations in area churches. He recently did a weekend-long camping expedition at the Our Daily Bread Campground in Marcellus, Michigan.

Peterson begins his presentations with the quote, "In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan, those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off." (*Desire of Ages*, p. 121) Peterson also refers to Jesus' promise in Matthew 6:25, 33 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."



Peterson then intones "that by first seeking God's kingdom, it gives our Lord the right to take care of us." Peterson then quotes, "The birds of the air are not beneath His notice. He does not drop the food into their bills, but He makes provision for their needs. They must gather the grains He has scattered for them. They must prepare the material for their little nests. They must feed their young." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 123) God will provide, but He is not going to put the food in our mouths. We have to know what to do with God's provisions. Peterson reminds his hearers what Jesus says in Matthew 24:17, 18: "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes." When the Lord tells his people to flee to the wilderness, we must be ready and can take none of our creature comforts with us, except the clothes on our backs. How long could you survive in the wilderness with only the clothes on your back? Peterson supplies techniques and skills to help you to do that.

Peterson explains that the five most vital essentials of survival in order of importance are: 1) shelter, 2) water, 3) fire, 4) food, and 5) cordage (rope, string). Many people think that food should be first, but Peterson explains that you can survive several days without food, but you need to have shelter to survive the night. Almost all wilderness water, except rain water, is full of water-borne pathogens which will make you quite sick and there are no pharmacies in the wilderness. Peterson

The Spirit of Thanksgiving

— Jarod Thomas

Pastor of the Grand Haven and Wright Churches

It was a tearful parting when the aged minister said goodbye to a number of his parishioners for the last time. Before they stepped onto the old ship to sail to London and then on to the new world, he was burdened to communicate the sacred duty that would soon be laid upon their shoulders. If not faithful, they would certainly succumb to the same complacent state to which many of the prominent churches of the age had fallen. Raising his strong voice, he impressed upon them these words:

“I charge you before God and His blessed angels that you follow me no further than you have seen me follow Christ. If God reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth from my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from His holy Word.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 291)

That minister was John Robinson, the spiritual leader of the English Separatists as they severed their ties with their church and country in pursuit of the truth of God’s Word. Robinson had become disillusioned with the reformed churches of his day. Lutherans were content to move no further than the teachings of Luther. Calvinists, hesitant to leave the established teachings of John Calvin, were unmoved by the cogent presentation of new teachings from the Scriptures. Robinson believed that the light of the righteous would shine brighter and brighter (c.f. Proverbs 4:18), furthering the work of the Reformation. But who would be willing to move beyond the human messenger and follow the light as it illumined the path ahead?

After making their way from Amsterdam to London, thirty-five of Robinson’s Puritans would board the Mayflower. The undertaking of “seeking for a better country” (Hebrews 11:13, 16) where they could worship in peace led them to identify themselves as pilgrims. Amid the malaise of religious persecution in the old world, the promise of God was that His faithful people would be safely guarded as they ventured into the wilderness, and that there they would be nourished and strengthened (c.f. Revelation 12:13-14). Christian history bears out the fact that He did just that. It was in the Italian Alps that the Waldensians were cared for in their mountain refuge. And in the new world - that wilderness that would come to be known as the United States of America - God nourished a small group of beleaguered pilgrims and, through them, inspired the faith and

(Continued from page 6)

provides excellent training on how to collect rain water or craft potable water. Peterson covers the skills and “equipment” needed to build fire in order to boil the water, to cook, and to stay warm. By the time Peterson completes his training, you will be able to make rope from dried plant stems or grass. You will be able to identify safe plant-based food in the wild and therefore not go hungry.

freedoms that we still enjoy today.

Over the many years since the arrival at Plymouth, we have come to celebrate God’s care for the pilgrim fathers. On a Thursday in late November, we will gather around the dinner table to remember God’s faithfulness to those who endured great hardship while pursuing a better future. But what about old John Robinson and his heavy burden? What became of the sacred charge to follow truth wherever they may find it?

James White, co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, records in his spiritual memoir that his father descended from the Pilgrims that landed on Plymouth rock in 1620 (James White, *Life Incidents*, p. 9). In fact, we trace his heritage to Peregrine White, the first baby born in the new world. Although half of the hundred or so pilgrims lost their lives that first year, including Peregrine’s father William, the child’s life was preserved. And not only would his progeny survive, but from Peregrine White would descend a man who would be honest enough to follow truth as its convicting power was brought to bear on his conscience.

James White heard the message of Christ’s soon return from William Miller. As a young man, he left home to teach the message himself. He studied and accepted the doctrine of the sanctuary after the Great Disappointment. He would later come to embrace the forgotten truth of the seventh-day Sabbath of creation.

We don’t know if Peregrine White’s family were John Robinson’s parishioners. But we do know that God answered John Robinson’s prayer through the men and women that risked their lives for religious freedom. Two hundred years after that fledgling group was established, a fledgling group would arise not far away from Plymouth Plantation. In America, a movement would burgeon and then spread throughout the world, sharing the old treasure of the everlasting gospel in the new settings of the Three Angels’ Messages.

As Seventh-day Adventists, the spirit of Thanksgiving and all that it stands for is a strong component of our denominational DNA. As we gather around our tables this year, I pray that we are reminded of what God has done in the broad strokes of religious history, as well as in our own spiritual heritage. And may we, too, be one of those honest hearted people that are still willing to trace the brightening light “unto the perfect day.”

Throughout his sessions, Peterson reminds his listeners that we are not to be afraid or worried for God will take care of His people. Just as God provided for His people for 40 years of wilderness wandering, He will provide for us when this great conflict is closing. For more information on their events and other resources, contact his wife Cheryl at cpeters.brat@gmail.com.

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November

- 11-13 New In Ministry
- 23-30 GLAA Home Leave
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 28 Office Closed

December

- 2 MI Executive Committee
- 9-11 Office Staff Retreat
- 9 AUSMIN
- 16 GLAA Finance
- 18-Jan 4 GLAA Home Leave
- 24-26 Christmas Holiday -
Office Closed
- 31-Jan 4 GYC - Phoenix
- 31 New Year's Eve -
Office Closed

January

- 1 New Year's Day - Office Closed
- 2 Office Closed
- 5-8 Ministerial Retreat
- 9-11 Teen Snow Outing-
Camp Au Sable
- 15 K-12 Board of Education
- 16 Martin Luther King Day -
Office Closed
- 16-18 Pathfinder Coordinator
Retreat - Camp Au Sable
- 21-25 GLAA Home Leave
- 30-Feb 1 Father/Son Retreat -
Camp Au Sable

Whole Sabbath School Class Gives Bible Studies

— Tom Mejeur
Elder of the Wyoming Church

Have you ever heard of every member of a Sabbath School class giving Bible studies? Well it is true! On Sabbath, September 20, Dr. Robert Jewel's adult Sabbath School class at the Wyoming Seventh-day Adventist Church recognized that the Adult Lesson Study was a typical doctrine that many Christians misunderstand.

That particular Sabbath, the substitute Sabbath School teacher recommended that instead of reviewing the lesson in the traditional format, it would be more interesting for each member to give the lesson as a Bible study. The class was taken back, but they recovered quickly! Some had never given a Bible study before.

All the class members were paired off in two's. Each pair was given two doctrinal study handouts to teach in ten minute sessions each: the *State of the Dead* and *Eternal Hell Fire*. Like learning to ride a bike, the Bible studies started off a little awkward, but within a few minutes the whole class was engaged.

One partner taught from the Mark Finley Bible study handout and the other listened. Before we knew it, we had to stop the first study and reverse roles for

the second study. A purposeful confident buzz filled the air. All too soon, the second study session expired.

The substitute Sabbath School teacher congratulated the class on how well they conducted their Bible studies. He told them that this was practice and now they are capable of and should give a real Bible study.

Two lessons were learned. One, we *all* can do Bible studies. All we need to do is practice and then do it. Second, Sabbath School can be a place to train members for service - LET'S DO IT!

What happened afterwards was that some gave their first ever Bible study, while others refreshed their memory. The fear factor was faced head-on.

Along with fellowship, world missions, and Bible study, training for evangelism is one of the four goals of Sabbath School. Realizing that delivering a Bible study was not that difficult and that many already knew most of the material from a life's worth of sermons, evangelism, and camp meetings, this Sabbath School class was trained for evangelism. Is yours?